COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES



Kurt E. Floren
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures

12300 Lower Azusa Road Arcadia, California 91006-5872 http://acwm.lacounty.gov



DATE:

July 13, 2011

TO:

Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor, Fifth District

Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District

Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District

FROM:

Kurt E. Floren

Agricultural Commissioner

Director of Weights and Measures

SUBJECT: ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY ERADICATION

Two sexually mature male specimens of Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF), a major agricultural pest, have been detected in Baldwin Park. The first was trapped on Thursday, July 7, and the second on Monday, July 11. Mated female Oriental Fruit Flies may deposit eggs into over 200 different varieties of fruits and vegetables, with resulting maggots feeding and tunneling through the tissue, making the produce unfit for consumption. To address this pest, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will conduct an OFF eradication operation over a 10.7 square-mile area covering most of Baldwin Park and portions of Irwindale, West Covina, and Industry, and along the border of La Puente (see attached map).

A "male attractant" technique will be employed to combat this pest. This technique presents no inconvenience to community members. It consists of squirting a small spot of bait onto streetside tree trunks. Approximately 600 such "bait stations" are placed approximately six to eight feet up on trees in each square mile of the eradication area. Male flies feed on the bait and are killed by the small amount of Naled pesticide in the bait. No aerial bait treatments are planned. CDFA plans to begin treatments tomorrow, Thursday, July 14, and will repeat at two-week intervals for at least six sessions.

We are informing the City Managers of Baldwin Park, Irwindale, West Covina, Industry, and La Puente, their respective public utilities and public works departments, the County Department of Public Works, and your Board offices in the treatment area to enable staff to answer questions from the public.

I will continue to update you as details become available and warrant an update.

KEF:kp

 William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer Jackie White, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Safety Board Deputies

